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PEQUOT TRAILS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN THE SPRING, SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER
BY THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

Volume III

Fall, 1951

Number III

Membership Committee Plans Open House

The membership committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lloyd P. Moore, will hold a special open house program at the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 14, from 3 to 5 p.m. The program will include tours of the nature trails, the trailside museum, an exhibition of winter feeding showing the various types of feeders, and the showing of a special wildlife movie. Refreshments will be served.

Invitations are extended to all members to come and to bring with them one or more friends who are not members of the Sanctuary. In this way the committee hopes to interest more people in the activities of the Sanctuary. Won't you accept this kind invitation to spend an enjoyable afternoon with your friends and "COMMA MY 'OUSE"?

Assisting Mrs. Moore on the membership committee are Mrs. Louis J. Darmstadt of Norwich, Miss Pauline H. Dederer of New London, Mrs. H. P. Gongaware of Westerly, Mrs. G. W. Blunt White of Mystic, and Mrs. Ellsworth C. Gray of North Stonington.

Lucie Palmer to Open 1951-1952 Screen Tour Programs at New London

To Speak



LUCIE PALMER

"Underwater Kingdom" to Be
Presented at Buell Hall, Monday
Evening, December 5

Lucie Palmer will open the Sanctuary's 1951-1952 Audubon Screen Tour programs at eight o'clock on Monday, December 5, in Buell Hall, New London. She will present "Underwater Kingdom," a delightful lecture and all-color motion picture about the weird and colorful creatures that live below the surface of our seas.

With specially created camera equipment, Lucie Palmer has photographed such interesting underwater characters as sea horses, with twenty baby sea-"ponies;" an octopus throwing out its ink barrage; starfish strolling along on all 1,000 legs; giant jellyfish with multicolored tentacles like fragile may-poles; sergeant major, "world's bravest animal;" toadfish; angelfish; porpoise; rays; sting rays; sharks; conchs; trunkfish; barracuda; doctorfish; schoolmasters cowfish; and an amazing array of other creatures among the hills and valleys that lie unseen below the waves.

The authenticity of these scenes makes them a significant contribution to science—to our knowledge of a great and important part of the natural resources we constantly depend upon. Lucie Palmer relates that wonder world of water to our own daily lives. The beauty and adventure of "Underwater Kingdom," and our own proximity to the sea, make this program one that we will not want to miss.

Sanctuary to Be Hosts

Your Sanctuary will be host to the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut on Saturday, October 13. Members of the Society will visit the Sanctuary as a part of a scheduled tour of interesting and historical spots about Mystic. A special Sanctuary committee will serve as guides for the several hundred visitors expected to be with us on that day.

J. Reid Johnson Elected Sanctuary President

J. Reid Johnson of Mystic was elected president of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary at the sixth annual meeting held on July 9. Mrs. Richard P. Grover, also of Mystic, was elected vice president. Louis J. Darmstadt of Norwich was elected Secretary and Carl H. Holdridge of Ledyard was named as Treasurer. Named as new members of the Board of Trustees were Mrs. Hartford P. Gongaware of Westerly, Donald C. Cottrell of Stonington, and Belton A. Copp of Old Lyme. These new members were elected to fill the expired terms of Williams Haynes, Joseph Santin, and George Stone.

Reports at the annual meeting showed that the Sanctuary had extended its educational services beyond that of any previous year. More lectures and school programs were given by the curator, and more children and adults made use of the Sanctuary facilities.

Following the business meeting, members toured the nature trails and the trailside museum. After a picnic supper, entertainment was provided by the showing of "Prairie Wings," an all-color motion picture released by Ducks Unlimited.

PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

Editors

Mrs. Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr. and
Thomas P. McElroy, Jr.

A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

A Pond in Your Name

Ever since our beginning, we have talked about the advantages of an enlarged pond on the Sanctuary property. While your trustees readily recognize the need for such a pond, and its advantages to wildlife, our annual budget has never been large enough to provide for such a major property improvement.

There are two main sources of water supply on our property. Neither source is very large, but conservation experts assure us there is sufficient water to maintain a year-round pond for the benefit of wildlife. We are currently working through the U. S. Soil Conservation Service seeking their advice on pond location, type, cost, etc.

The advantages of such a Sanctuary pond are indeed numerous. It would increase our bird population almost beyond belief. Not only would it provide a new habitat attractive to nesting and migrating waterfowl, but it would prove equally enticing to shore birds and a greatly increased number of song birds. A pond would provide new plant life, an abundance of aquatic insects—all contributing factors to an increased wildlife population. The landscape value cannot be overlooked nor can the availability of adequate water for emergency use.

Many members have made numerous inquiries concerning the progress of our pond development plans. Even though the type of pond we have in mind will be comparatively small in cost, there is little possibility of including it in our current budget. However, should any member be sufficiently interested in this project as to desire contributing toward its completion, we shall be happy to furnish additional information upon request. Would you like to see a pond at the Sanctuary that would not only carry your name but, at the same time, serve as a conservation, educational, and recreational center for the youth and adults of your community?

The National Audubon Society's annual convention will be held in New York on November 10 to 13.

More About Eels

by Pauline H. Dederer

(see Vol. III, No. 1 for previous story)

Many answers to questions in natural history are arrived at in a crossword puzzle sort of way—here a clue and there another, until the missing parts are filled in. For example, some years before Dr. Marie Poland on the Arcturus expedition in mid-Atlantic traced the early stages in the development of an eel egg, a Danish biologist, Dr. Johannes Schmidt on a scientific cruise in the Atlantic, located an area near Bermuda where eel larvae were found in large numbers. These creatures vary in size from a quarter of an inch to three inches in length, are thin as a willow leaf and about the same shape, and almost transparent.

Every year hundreds of millions of them wriggle toward the surface of the sea and begin their amazing pilgrimage northward, drifting in the currents of the Gulf Stream, and changing from leaf-like creatures into small rounded eels or elvers. In this mass migration there are two species of eels, American and European.

The question is—how do they get sorted out so that only the American ascend our eastern rivers, while the European species continue on across the Atlantic to the shores of Europe? This is the answer: American eels reach the elver stage in about a year, when they begin to swim up our eastern streams. The European eels take three years to metamorphose into elvers and are therefore not biologically ready to ascend rivers when they near our shores, so they are carried northeasterly as larvae until they reach the shores of Europe. There, as elvers, they ascend the streams and rivers.

Dr. Schmidt, in his report on the **Breeding Places of the Eel**, states that eels have been taken in waters in Switzerland at an altitude of 3000 feet above the sea. That seems fantastic, yet they, as well as our American species, swarm up streams in great numbers, even wriggling over grass on rainy nights to reach land-locked ponds and lakes in which they mature. In the fall, perhaps several years later, adult eels, driven by some biological impulse, migrate from inland waters to the sea, traveling months before they reach the Atlantic breeding grounds to begin anew the cycle of development.

Correction in Membership List

We regret to say that in publishing our membership list in the previous issue we neglected to include the name of one of our members—that of Mrs. Waldo Miner of New London. We regret this mistake on our part and do hope that no other names were overlooked.

Conservation News From Our Nation's Capitol

Washington, D. C.—A \$17 million bonanza of federal aid for wildlife projects during the coming year is going to mean a headache for many State game administrators and for federal supervisors of the fund. That is the prediction of Carl D. Shoemaker, conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation.

Last year American hunters stampered the sporting goods counters as never before to buy shotguns, rifles, and ammunition. On every purchase the federal government collected an 11 per cent excise tax under the Pittman-Robertson federal aid wildlife act of 1938.

The collections totaled \$17,846,423, highest on record and \$8 million more than the preceeding year. After the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service deducts three per cent for administrative costs and fixed amounts are allotted to Alaska and other territories, a sum of \$17,191,031 will be left for apportionment to the 48 states.

The money is apportioned to the states by a formula taking into consideration the area of the state and the number of hunting licenses sold. States must apply a matching fund of 25 per cent per project. Still other state headaches will come in trying to find projects that will qualify under the law.

Rhode Island, with only 1,214 square miles, may receive \$85,955—the one-half of one per cent minimum—but this is \$7.58 for each of the state's 11,488 licensed hunters. Last year Rhode Island reverted \$18,904. The reverted money goes automatically into the federal migratory bird migration fund.

Connecticut has an area of 5,009 square miles. Last year 50,434 hunters bought licenses. Under the current formula Connecticut will be entitled to the same apportionment as Rhode Island—\$85,955. Matching state contributions would have to amount to \$28,651..

Disney Presents Nature Films

It is quite an innovation to go into a local movie theatre and see a real nature film—a film that has been beautifully photographed, delightfully scored with music, and at the same time is scientifically correct. Such are Walt Disney's releases of "Seal Island," "Beaver Valley," and "Nature's Half Acre." If you have not seen these pictures, we urge you to do so at your first opportunity. You will not be disappointed as they are delightful beyond comparison.

As you read the leads on these films you will recognize many familiar names such as Maslowski, Tom and Arlene Hadley, and others. Yes, many of these scenes were taken by our own Screen Tour lecturers—many from the actual programs we are presenting.

Christmas Gift Suggestions From Our Trading Post

It's not too early to think about your Christmas shopping list—and this year we hope you will consider the items offered through your own Trading Post here at the Sanctuary. While our list of items is not large at present, we feel that every item offered is one that will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by anyone interested in the out-of-doors. May we suggest that you take this opportunity to fill your own needs as well as those of your friends.

WILD BIRD NOTE PAPER—Each box includes 20 correspondence cards and 20 envelopes. The cards are beautifully illustrated by Francis Lee Jaques showing wild birds in natural settings. Once you see these cards, we are sure they will become your favorite.

WILD FLOWER AND BUTTERFLY NOTE PAPER—20 correspondence cards and 20 envelopes. These cards are delightfully illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson depicting wildflowers, butterflies, and moths in an array of delicate colors. Sure to be a favorite.

WRITING PORTFOLIO—15 large correspondence sheets and 15 envelopes. The folder and the correspondence sheets contain wild bird illustrations by Francis Lee Jaques. A delightful paper for that longer letter.

HANDBOOK OF ATTRACTING BIRDS—A book that will be treasured by anyone interested in birds. Written by our own curator, Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. All copies personally autographed.

BLUEBIRD OR TREE SWALLOW BOX—These boxes are specially de-

signed for bluebirds or tree swallows. They are made of durable western cedar and rust-proof hardware. They are easily opened for cleaning or inspection. Will last for many years.

WREN BOX—Similar construction to the bluebird box but designed specially for the house wren. Attractive and durable.

GLASS WINDOW FEEDER—This window feeder is both attractive and practical. It has all-glass sides and can be filled from within doors. A removable scratch board makes it easy to keep clean. It is easily attached to any depth window sill without the need of additional blocking. Permits close observation of feeding birds.

GLASS WEATHERVANE FEEDER—An attractive addition to any lawn or garden. Swings with the wind and keeps food and birds protected from inclement weather. Three sides glass. Comes complete with metal pole ready for mounting.

Current Price List

Wild Bird Note Paper	\$ 1.00
Wild Flower and Butterfly Note Paper	\$ 1.00
Writing Portfolio	\$ 1.00
Handbook for Attracting Birds ...	\$ 2.75
Bluebird or Tree Swallow Box	\$3.50
Wren Box	\$ 3.50
Glass Window Feeder	\$10.00
Glass Weathervane Feeder (Complete with pole)	\$20.00

NOTE: All items are mailable postpaid except the two feeders which are not mailable. Connecticut residents add 2% sales tax.

Museum Committee Meets

The first meeting of the newly organized museum committee was held at the Sanctuary on Monday, August 27. Members of the committee include Richard H. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bates, Mrs. O. E. Liebig, Mrs. Richard P. Grover, and Mrs. Leonard P. Moore. The purpose of the meeting was to start the development of plans that would make next year's museum more attractive and more educational for Sanctuary visitors.

Initial plans call for an active and changing type of museum program. Every effort will be made to avoid the staid and antiquated type of museum where one has a tendency to view the exhibits with an awe-inspired silence reminiscent of a visit to the morgue. Next season, more than ever before, the combined exhibits will represent a true community museum. The committee hopes to accomplish this by inviting local community organizations interested in natural history to use the museum for the purpose of displaying their own exhibits. In addition, exhibits will be included that will compliment and be integrated with the nature trails, forestry demonstration area, pond life, and other features of the Sanctuary.

Safe Rules to Use

With the coming of the fall season will also come dry woodlands. Autumn leaves will cover the ground inches deep and the dangers of forest fires will be with us once again. With this thought in mind, we present these safe rules for your guidance. Read and remember them before you strike that match!

ONE—Hold your match till it's cold—then pinch to make sure.

TWO—Crush out all your smokes—dead out. Then, where there's an ash tray, use it!

THREE—Drown your campfire and warming fire, then stir and drown again.

FOUR—Remember: Setting fire on lands of another without permission is a violation of State law.

FIVE—If you must use fire to clear old fields or fence rows, to burn brush or trash, ask about the law, get a permit if required. Then follow safe rules; burn on calm days only; have help and tools on hand from start to finish; kill every spark.

Have you paid your membership dues for the year ending June 30, 1951?

Report Your Bird Observations

The Sanctuary is interested in knowing of your unusual bird observations. Won't you keep us informed as to the number and species of birds you are seeing. Let us know what you have around your feeding stations, see on your field trips, etc. We will publish it in our bulletin so that other members may share in your find.

Mrs. Carlton B. Morse of Groton reports that a pair of Least Bitterns visited their pond this summer. One arrived on August 1 and another joined it after about a week. The pair then disappeared. The Least Bittern is not too common in this area and, although it is reportedly a shy bird, Mrs. Morse states that workmen passed within several feet of the birds without disturbing them.

Mrs. Morse also reports a large migration of tree swallows that stopped to feed around their place. She and Dr. Morse counted an estimated 10,000 swallows on phone wires alone. She also said that there were thousands of others in the air and on the road. To quote Mrs. Morse, "the air over the pond looked like a snow storm."

Bird Identification Courses Will Be Repeated

Ever since our bird identification course concluded last spring, we have been flooded with requests as to when and where we would repeat the course. It's a little too early to answer these requests specifically but we are definitely planning to hold courses in at least two towns this year. They will probably be held in late winter or early spring so that they can be concluded with a spring migration field trip.

As you may recall, we were quite overwhelmed with the response to our first endeavor with this type of course. The manner in which it was received and its apparent success, labeled it as one of our most popular and successful community programs. We are hoping to make the course even better this year. If you are a novice at bird identification and would like to learn more about it, watch future issues of **Pequot Trails** for detailed announcements of this year's courses.

Audubon Screen Tour Schedule

1951-1952 Season

LUCIE PALMER
"Underwater Kingdom"
Monday, December 5
8:00 p.m.

G. HARRISON ORIAN
"By Erie's Changing Shores"
Friday, January 25
8:00 p.m.

ALLAN CRUICKSHANK
"Below the Big Bend"
Tuesday, February 12
8:00 p.m.

KARL MASLOWSKI
"Earthquake Lake"
Sunday, March 9
3:00 p.m.

WILLIAM FERGUSON
"High Horizons"
Thursday, April 3
8:00 p.m.

As previously announced, all programs will be held at Buell Hall, Williams Memorial Institute, New London. This season, for the first time, our films will be shown with professional theatre equipment—carbon-arc projection. This will give us a full screen of exceptionally brilliant pictures and help make our programs more beautiful and entertaining than they have ever been.

The prices for this season's tickets remain the same except that we have added the 20% federal tax. Perhaps this 20% will mean the difference between a deficit and paying our own way. The prices for this season's tickets are as follows:

Screen Tour Patron (includes	
2 season tickets	\$6.00
Sanctuary Member's Season	
Ticket	\$3.00
Non-member's Season Ticket	\$4.80
Adult's Single Admission Ticket ...	\$1.20
Student's Single Admission	
Ticket36

NOTE: Any order of \$6.00 or more will classify you as a Patron and your name will be included on our Patron's list. All the above prices include the 20% federal tax.

Signs of Autumn

Poison ivy leaves covering our stone walls with blankets of red and yellow. Blue jays feasting noisily on the new crop of acorns.

Shaggy-mane mushrooms appearing on lawns and pasture lands.

Flights of Monarch butterflies along the coast.

Goldenrod and asters blooming by the roadside.

Chickadees returning to our lawns.

The beginning of the hawk migration.

The Virginia creeper wearing its cardinal cloak.

Become a Screen Tour Patron!

We want to take advantage of this early opportunity to urge every one of our members to become a Screen Tour Patron for the coming season's programs. There are advantages both to you and to the Sanctuary if you do so. You will be guaranteed two season tickets at a cost considerably less than general admission prices, and you will at the same time, be contributing measurably towards helping your Sanctuary make these outstanding programs available to your community.

Within the near future you will receive this year's Screen Tour folder and ticket order form. You will note that ticket orders in the amount of \$6.00 or more will classify you as a Patron. Your contribution towards the maintenance of these Screen Tours will be gratefully acknowledged on the special programs to be distributed at each lecture. Plan now to attend these five outstanding natural history programs. Become a Screen Tour Patron!

New Nature Books

There is a current trend among writers of natural history subjects to be concerned with the ecology, management, conservation, and the development of these resources. No longer is the average nature book merely one intended for identification purposes only. New writers are giving us an insight into the why and how of needed conservation practices. With this thought in mind, we review briefly a few books we think you will enjoy.

AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND PLANTS by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., \$7.50 500 pp., over 700 illu.

This is a comprehensive and authoritative handbook that summarizes the relationships between animals and the plants which provide their food. This book was prepared under the guidance of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service and draws upon the most exhaustive file of such data now in existence. This is an excellent reference book for anyone interested in nature and wanting to know more about what is happening in his environment.

NATURE THROUGH THE YEAR by Frances Pitt Macmillan and Co., \$3.75 300 pp., 133 illu.

Miss Pitt's book can perhaps be best acclaimed as a delightful month by month tour of the English countryside. It is presented as an informal journal noting the ever changing behavior of both wild and domesticated animals. The book is well illustrated with photographs taken by the author.

AMERICAN RESOURCES — Their Management and Conservation by J. Russell Whitaker and Edward A. Ackerman

Harcourt, Brace and Co., \$6.75 497 pp., 76 figs.

This book covers all phases of our natural resources and their relation to the future economy of our country. It deals with grasslands, forests, waters, wildlife, and minerals. Perhaps the greatest value of this book is that through a wealth of maps, statistics, and exhaustive studies, it portrays a definite trend that cannot help remind us of the need for a sound management plan for our natural resources.

THE SEA AROUND US by Rachel L. Carson

Oxford University Press, \$3.50

Here is a story of the hidden mysteries of the sea written in a delightful and fast-moving manner. The book is filled with absorbing and dramatic information. It is as interesting and as fascinating as a mystery story.

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING—East of the Mississippi by Olin Sewall Pettingill

Oxford University Press, \$5.00 659 pp., 72 illu.

This book tells you how to locate any species occurring regularly in 26 states: where and when to go, and how to get there. Special emphasis has been placed on important bird concentrations, such as breeding colonies, migration routes and wintering grounds. National and state parks are included along with wildlife refuges and sanctuaries, including our own Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our Sanctuary. They have joined since the beginning of our fiscal year, July 1, 1951.

Barnum, Miss Alice, Groton

Clark, Warren, Mason's Island

Clark, Mrs. Warren, Mason's Island

Favretti, Rudy, Mystic

Gilkes, Miss Thelma M., Groton

Gray, Miss Lydia, Gales Ferry

Olmstead, Clarence A., Mystic

Olney, Wilson, Old Saybrook

Perry, Miss Julianna R., Westerly

Putnam, Miss Marcella R., Waterford

Starr, Mrs. Mary M., Saybrook

Tillinghast, Mrs. Richard B., Mystic